



THE LEAGUE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

OCTOBER 1, 2007

ON THE WEB: WWW.CCLEAGUE.ORG > GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

IN THIS UPDATE:

- Governor Names Assistant for Higher Education 1
- Gearing Up for 2008 -- Two-Year Bills 1
- Legislation on the Governor's Desk 3
- Legislator to Seek Uniform Grade Change Policies 3
- Assessment Regulations to Be Presented to BOG 3
- Textbook Summit Announced 4
- System Legislative Program 4
- Year of Education Reform 4
- President Signs Pell Grant Legislation 5
- Fall Campus Site Visits 5
- CEO Changes 5
- League Staff Change 6

GOVERNOR NAMES ASSISTANT FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Governor recently appointed Vince Stewart as Assistant Secretary of Higher Education for the Office of the Secretary of Education. Mr. Stewart comes to the post with extensive experience in higher education legislative and policy issues. Mostly recently, Mr. Stewart was the director of federal governmental relations for the University of California, Davis; and formerly legislative director for undergraduate and graduate education in the University of California Office of the President, where he worked cooperatively with the League on crosscutting issues affecting California public education segments. Mr. Stewart also worked for the California School Boards Association as a legislative advocate and is well-versed on issues affecting local control and governance. The League welcomes Vince Stewart to his new position with Governor Schwarzenegger and encourages local community colleges to share in this welcome.

GEARING UP FOR 2008 – TWO-YEAR BILLS

As soon as the regular session adjourned for the Fall Recess on September 14, legislators and their staff began planning legislation for the 2008 session. The Legislature reconvenes on January 7, 2008. Several bills of interest followed by the League became two-year bills; and several must meet deadlines in January to be enacted in 2008. Bills introduced in 2007 residing in the house where they originally were introduced must be passed out of the originating house by January 31, 2008; bills which have already passed out of the originating house have until August 2008 to be enacted by the Legislature. Legislative focus will most likely include: textbook cost containment, accountability, facilities bonds, nursing, executive compensation and fees, financial aid, fifty-percent law, student success and completion, and legislation introduced to implement Governor Schwarzenegger’s education reform agenda. Two-year bills of interest to the community colleges include:

- **AB 100 (Mullin):** Education Facilities Bond for the November 2008 ballot (Assembly Education) *Support*
- **AB 577 (Ruskin):** Open Education Resources- creative alternative to reduce cost of educational materials and textbooks (Senate Appropriations) *Support*
- **AB 906 (Eng):** Classroom salaries: audits- rumored to be amended to increase the level above fifty percent with inclusion of counselors and librarians (Senate Education) *Oppose*
- **AB 1409 (Portantino):** Concurrent Enrollment. This bill would have expanded options for concurrent enrollment and reduced the limitations on summer school enrollments (except for PE classes.) This bill was held over due to last-minute opposition from the Department of Finance which argued that costs would reach the high levels of 2001-02 when community colleges were penalized for heavy PE class enrollments. (Senate Appropriations) *Support*
- **AB 1578 (Leno)** Emancipated Foster Youth Higher Education Preparation and Support Act (Senate Appropriations) *Support*
- **SB 325 (Scott):** Higher Education Accountability— A top priority for Senator Scott, this bill would have created additional accountability reporting requirements for all public higher education segments. (Assembly Higher Education) *Oppose Unless Amended*
- **SB 413 (Scott):** Inmate Education -- This bill would waive open course requirements for inmate classes in city, county, state and federal correctional facilities and allow community colleges to receive credit apportionment at the marginal rate for these students. (Assembly Floor) *Support*
- **SB 588 (Runner):** Community College Facilities— Alternative building standards to implement AB 127 (Nunez) of 2006. This bill was stalled by late opposition from organizations representing state employees. Amendments are pending to implement an alternative process under the auspices of the System Office. (Assembly Appropriations) *Support*
- **SB 767 (Walters)** Student Financial Aid: Veterans and Dependents (Senate Education) *No position*
- **SB 823 (Perata):** Private Postsecondary Education Institutions— This bill would have regulated private postsecondary institutions, while deleting the current exemption for ACCJC-accredited private colleges from oversight by a new Private Postsecondary Bureau. This bill was held in committee pending negotiations between the author and the Governor. (Assembly Appropriations) *Oppose*
- **SB 890 (Scott):** Early College Commitment— sponsored by the Campaign for College Opportunity (Assembly Appropriations) *Support*

More information on these bills is available at: www.ccleague.org

LEGISLATION ON THE GOVERNOR’S DESK

Following is a brief summary of bills on the Governor’s desk:

- **AB 1559 (Berryhill)** would allow community colleges to use specified multiple criteria, if they choose to do so, in determining admission of students for nursing programs when there are more applicants than spaces. *Support*
- **SB 1 (Cedillo)** would create eligibility for all “AB 540” students to receive: BOG fee waivers, non-competitive Cal Grant awards, and private student aid awards if these students meet the requirements of existing law. *Support*
- **SB 139 (Scott)** is clean-up language to last year’s SB 1309, and would allow districts to use diagnostic assessment tests in determining nursing school admission; allow districts to use additional multiple screening measures if the number of applicants exceeds capacity, and prohibit districts from excluding applicants to an ADN program solely because the applicant is not a district resident or has not completed prerequisite courses in that district. *Support*
- **SB 964 (Romero)** would overturn the *Wolfe vs. City of Fremont* decision by prohibiting members of community college trustee boards from using serial communication regarding business within the jurisdiction of that board, thus reducing the ability of staff to brief their boards, even when this communication does not result in reaching a collective concurrence. *Oppose*

LEGISLATOR TO SEEK UNIFORM GRADE CHANGING POLICIES

Assembly member Mary Hayashi, chair of the Assembly Select Committee on Community Colleges, held a hearing in Pleasant Hill last week on September 25th regarding the grade-changing issue at Diablo Valley College. Although community college representatives testified to the changes which had been made at the college, assured legislators that this could not occur again, and provided the committee with examples of the typical college policies for grade changes, the Assembly member indicated that “she will push for new legislation to set uniform grade-changing policies for the entire California community college system.”

Meanwhile, the story is also being kept alive as one of the former DVC students pled guilty to 15 felony counts of computer fraud, and 33 other students and former students have been charged with various crimes connected with this issue.

ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS TO BE PRESENTED TO BOG

The Academic Senate has concluded its review of assessment issues and will present a draft report to the Board of Governors at their November meeting. Among the proposals will be a recommendation for a statewide system for sharing assessment testing data to facilitate the portability of assessment testing data and intra-institutional use of student assessment testing, data, but the Academic Senate will not be recommending a single test. They will recommend that the system support and fund a pilot project to explore the alignment across colleges of course outcomes for freshmen composition courses as a first step in researching the feasibility of

implementing a common assessment. They note that mandatory assessment requires adequate support resources including funding of both counseling and other student services faculty and staff for quality individualized pre-enrollment services, early intervention, interpretation of assessment testing results and college readiness programs. Recommendations were made in Consultation that the Academic Senate also recognize that the 50% Law will pose problems if these recommendations are to be implemented. A draft report will be presented at the October Consultation Council with comments from that meeting included in the presentation to the BOG in November.

TEXTBOOK SUMMIT ANNOUNCED

The System Office will be sponsoring a “textbook summit” on November 30 at Chabot College. The discussion will center on activities which appear to be helpful in reducing costs and also make a determination of what the system can/should do to reduce costs.

There will be a presentation on Foothill DeAnza’s open resources proposal at the next Consultation Council meeting. (Meanwhile, Governor Schwarzenegger has two bills on this topic on his desk – SB 832 which is supported by the League and other community college organizations; and AB 1548 which is supported by the publishers.)

SYSTEM LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

The Consultation Task Force for the 2008 System Legislative Program will meet October 5 and again via conference call on October 24 to begin planning the 2008 System Legislative Program. The task force is composed of Consultation Council representatives. Because this will be the second year of the two-year legislative session, it is anticipated the process will be streamlined and build upon 2007 proposals. The scope of the task force will be to: review holdover items from the 2007 Legislative Program, develop bill ideas that emerged from the System budget change proposals (BCPs), and consider new ideas from community college organizations and districts. The deadline to submit legislative proposals to the System Office for consideration was September 21. CEOCCC President John Romo represents the CEOCCC and League on the task force. The System Office staff for the task force is Mike Magee, Administrator/Director, Governmental Relations.

YEAR OF EDUCATION REFORM

Earlier this year Governor Schwarzenegger declared that 2008 would be the year of education reform. Secretary of Education Dave Long is gathering input from students, teachers, parents, administrators, community and business leaders through a series of “Community Leaders Meetings” to help identify challenges and proposed solutions. In addition, Secretary Long seeks online submission of ideas to edpolicy@ose.ca.gov. Chancellor Woodruff has met with the Administration and Secretary Long to initiate discussions on the role community colleges, and Secretary Long met with the BOGCCC at their September 2007 meeting.

In a related reform effort, the Governor’s Committee on Education Excellence is performing an integrated and thorough analysis of the K-12 public education system. The committee will play a pivotal role in crafting the comprehensive reform plan for the Governor’s 2008 “year of education reform,” using earlier studies and recommendations including those of the Joint Committee for the Review of the California Master Plan for Education and the California Constitutional Revision Commission. The committee is chaired by Ted Mitchell, with former

Senator Dede Alpert as vice chair, and Stephen Blake serving as executive staff director. The committee charge will focus on four interrelated topics:

- Finance: the efficiency and sufficiency of education funding;
- Governance: the functioning and effectiveness of governance structures;
- Teaching: teacher recruitment, training, support, and compensation; and
- Administration: the preparation, support, and retention of education leaders

PRESIDENT SIGNS PELL GRANT LEGISLATION

On September 27 President Bush signed legislation, passed overwhelmingly by Congress, that would increase the maximum Pell Grant from \$4,310 to \$5,400 a year by 2012. It also cuts the interest rates on federally backed student loans from 6.8% to 3.4% over the next four years. The increase in financial aid is designed to come from cuts in subsidies that the government makes to banks, totaling about \$20 billion.

“Pell Grants send an important message to students in need. If you work hard, and you stay in school, and you make the right choices, the federal government is going to stand with you,” the President stated. One provision of the bill favored by the President was the new flexibility on college loan payments for military personnel on active duty.

Stating he wanted even more funding directed to Pell Grants from Congress, the President noted that “This bill makes some spending commitments that aren’t paid for yet. I look forward to working with Congress to ensure Pell Grant increases not fully funded in this bill are paid for with offsets in other areas.”

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi was pleased by Bush’s action, stating “We have delivered on our promise to make college more affordable”.

FALL CAMPUS SITE VISTS

With the Legislature in recess until January, legislators will be working in their districts. This is a perfect opportunity for colleges to invite their representatives to tour their campuses. We hope you will contact your members soon, schedule them to visit your colleges, and show them first hand the many programs and innovations you offer their constituent students. You can be sure their visit will be on their mind as they vote on legislation affecting community colleges. Also, please remember to let the League Office know of the site visits and their outcomes.

CEO CHANGES

- Jamilla Moore is the new interim president of LA City College replacing David Maradian, effective September 24.
- Susan Carroll, superintendent/president of Feather River College since 1999 will retire in June 2008
- Guy Lease, superintendent/president of Lake Tahoe CCD since 1990, will retire in June 2008.
- Robert Carlson, president of Chabot College since 2002, will retire in August 2008.
- Gerry Fisher, who has served as Solano Community College interim superintendent/president since December 2006, has been hired to that position by the SCC Governing Board.

LEAGUE STAFF CHANGE:

- The League has hired Kristine Schilpp as the new Governmental Relations Associate, replacing Danna Pacheco, who recently relocated to Europe. Kristine begins on October 1.